

Objective 10: Increase Students Entering Kindergarten Ready to Learn

Maryland SHIP Vision Area 2: Healthy Social Environments
Tools, Resources, and Promising Practices
updated April 2012



Maryland Services and Hotlines

Parenting Classes

Free parenting classes in conjunction with existing childhood development programs (administered concurrently as to minimize daycare needs). Community partnerships with WIC, parenting class groups, and local supermarkets/food stores. Incentive would be credit given based on completion of classes to be used towards food and housing.



Ready at Five

This Maryland organization focuses on achieving the goal that all children enter kindergarten ready to learn. They disseminate data, generate public awareness, and research innovative practices to accomplish this goal.



Promising Practices

Head Start and Early Head Start

National program that provides educational, nutritional, health, and social services to children and their families, with emphasis on parental involvement; specifically for children ages 3 to 5 (Head Start) and 0 to 3 (Early Head Start) from low-income families.



North Carolina Smart Start

A strategy to improve readiness to learn by kindergarten through local private-public partnerships with strong community direction to make decisions on how best to meet the needs of the children and families based on established, measurable statewide goals.



Reach out and Read

ROR is a non-profit that partners with pediatricians to incorporate early learning into well-child visits from six months to five years. The program provides age and culturally appropriate books at each appointment.



Countdown to Kindergarten

Countdown to Kindergarten is a non-profit that works to inform and support parents in beginning early education at home.



Read, Educate, and Develop Youth (READY)

Michigan's R.E.A.D.Y. program works to increase awareness among parents and caregivers of the importance of early learning. R.E.A.D.Y. kits are available with learning materials, books, and audio and visual materials.



Thrive by Five

Thrive by Five Washington works to mobilize the long-term statewide commitment to early learning, so that families and caregivers have the information and support they need to help their children succeed in school and thrive in life.



[Bright from the Start](#)

Bright from the Start oversees a wide range of programs focused primarily on children ages birth to school age and their families.



[VIOLETS](#)

The Vocabulary Improvement and Oral Language Enrichment through Stories (VIOLETS) early childhood curriculum is designed to develop oral language, pre-literacy skills, and background knowledge in young (ages 3-5) English Language Learners (ELLs) and children with low expressive language skills.



Toolkits

[The Community Guide](#)

Provides information on evidence-based comprehensive, center-based programs for children of low-income families.

